

**IN THE CLAIMS:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended): A system for a covered belt for a personal flotation device, the system comprising:

a buoyant material, having a first side arranged to face towards a body of a user of the device, and a second side arranged to face away from the body;

a cover, arranged to cover at least a portion of the second side of the buoyant material; and

a belt, arranged to encircle a portion of the body, positioned between at least a portion of the cover and the second side of the buoyant material, the belt passing through the cover at at least one location, the belt being stitched to the cover ~~near~~ adjacent the at least one location where the belt passes through the cover.

2. (Original): The system of Claim 1, wherein the cover includes stretchable fabric.

3. (Original): The system of Claim 2, wherein the stretchable fabric includes neoprene.

4. (Original): The system of Claim 1, wherein the belt includes nylon webbing.

5. (Original): The system of Claim 1, wherein the belt is arranged to encircle the body.

6. (Original): The system of Claim 1, wherein the belt is stitched to the cover at at least two locations.

7. (Original): The system of Claim 6, wherein the cover includes a first lateral edge, and a second lateral edge, and the belt is stitched to the cover near the first lateral edge and the second lateral edge.

8. (Original): The system of Claim 1, wherein the belt passes through the cover at at least one location.

9. (Canceled)

10. (Previously Amended): The system of Claim 8 wherein the belt being stitched to the cover near the at least one location where the belt passes through the cover includes being stitched with a bar tack.

11. (Original): The system of Claim 8 wherein the belt passes through the cover at at least two locations.

12. (Original): The system of Claim 11 wherein the belt is stitched to the cover near the at least two locations where the belt passes through the cover.

13. (Original): The system of Claim 12 wherein the belt is stitched to the cover near the at least two locations where the belt passes through the cover includes being stitched with a bar tack.

14. (Original): The system of Claim 1 wherein the belt being stitched to the cover at at least one location includes being stitched with a bar tack.

15. (Previously Amended): A personal flotation device, the device comprising:  
at least one segment of buoyant material, having a first side arranged to face towards a body of a user of the device, and a second side arranged to face away from the body;

at least one cover, arranged to cover at least a portion of the second side of the segment of buoyant material; and

a belt, arranged to encircle the body, positioned between at least a portion of the cover and the second side of the buoyant material, the belt passing through the cover from inside to outside at at least one location, the belt stitched to the cover approximately adjacent the at least one location where the belt passes through the cover.

16. (Original): The system of Claim 15, wherein the cover includes stretchable fabric.

17. (Original): The system of Claim 16, wherein the stretchable fabric includes neoprene.

18. (Original): The system of Claim 15, wherein the belt includes nylon webbing.

19. (Original): The system of Claim 15, wherein the belt is stitched to the cover at at least two locations.

20. (Original): The system of Claim 19, wherein the cover includes a first lateral edge, and a second lateral edge, and the belt is stitched to the cover near the first lateral edge and the second lateral edge.

21. (Original): The system of Claim 15, wherein the belt passes through the cover at at least one location.

22. (Original): The system of Claim 21 wherein the belt passes through the cover at at least two locations.

23. (Original): The system of Claim 22 wherein the belt is stitched to the cover near the at least one location where the belt passes through the cover.

24. (Original): The system of Claim 23 wherein the belt is stitched to the cover near the at least two locations where the belt passes through the cover.

25. (Original): The system of Claim 23 wherein the belt is stitched to the cover includes being stitched with a bar tack.

26. (Currently Amended): A system for a covered belt for a personal flotation device, the system comprising:

a buoyant material, having a first side arranged to face towards a body of a user of the device, a second side arranged to face away from the body, and a first lateral edge, and a second lateral edge;

a stretchable cover, arranged to cover the second side of the buoyant material, having an inside facing towards the buoyant material and an outside facing away from the buoyant material; and

a belt, arranged to encircle a portion of the body, positioned between at least a portion of inside of the cover and the second side of the buoyant material, the belt passing from the inside to the outside through the cover at a first location ~~near~~ adjacent the first lateral edge and from the inside to the outside at a second location ~~near~~ adjacent the second lateral edge, and the belt stitched to the cover ~~near~~ adjacent the first location and ~~near~~ adjacent the second location.

27. (Original): The system of Claim 26, wherein the stretchable fabric includes neoprene.

28. (Original): The system of Claim 26, wherein the belt includes nylon webbing.

29. (Previously Amended): A personal flotation device, the device comprising:

- a back segment of buoyant material, having a first side arranged to face towards a body of a user of the device, and a second side arranged to face away from the body, and having a first right lateral edge and a first left lateral edge,
- a right front segment of buoyant material, having a third side arranged to face towards a body of a user of the device, a fourth side arranged to face away from the body, a second right lateral edge and a second left lateral edge, the right front segment attached to the back segment near the first right lateral edge and the second right lateral edge;
- a left front segment of buoyant material, having a fifth side arranged to face towards a body of a user of the device, and a sixth side arranged to face away from the body, a third right lateral edge and third left lateral edge, the left front segment attached to the back segment near the first left lateral edge and the third left lateral edge, the left front segment arranged to be detachably linked to the right front segment near the second left lateral edge and the third right lateral edge;
- a back cover of stretchable fabric arranged to cover at least a portion of the second side;
- a right front cover of stretchable fabric arranged to cover at least a portion of the fourth side;
- a left front cover of stretchable fabric arranged to cover at least a portion of the sixth side;
- at least one belt, arranged to encircle the body, sandwiched between at least a portion of the back cover and the back segment, sandwiched between at least a portion of the right front cover and the right front segment, and sandwiched between at least a portion of the left front cover and the left front segment, the at least one belt stitched at at least one location to the back cover, stitched at at least one location to

the right front cover, and stitched at at least one location to the left front cover, wherein the belt passes through the cover at at least one location and is stitched to the cover near where it passes through.

30. (Original): The system of Claim 29, wherein the stretchable fabric includes neoprene.

31. (Original): The system of Claim 29, wherein the belt includes nylon webbing.

32. (Original): The system of Claim 29, wherein the belt is stitched to the back cover at at least two locations.

33. (Original): The system of Claim 32, wherein the back cover includes a first right edge, and a first left edge, and the belt is stitched to the cover near the first right edge and the first left edge.

34. (Previously Amended): A personal flotation device, the device comprising:

a back segment of buoyant material, having a first side arranged to face towards a body of a user of the device, and a second side arranged to face away from the body, and having a first right lateral edge and a first left lateral edge,

a right front segment of buoyant material, having a third side arranged to face towards a body of a user of the device, a fourth side arranged to face away from the body, a second right lateral edge and a second left lateral edge, the right front segment attached to the back segment near the first right lateral edge and the second right lateral edge;

a left front segment of buoyant material, having a fifth side arranged to face towards a body of a user of the device, and a sixth side arranged to face away from the body, a third right lateral edge and third left lateral edge, the left front segment attached to

the back segment near the first left lateral edge and the third left lateral edge, the left front segment arranged to be detachably linked to the right front segment near the second left lateral edge and the third right lateral edge;

a back cover of stretchable fabric arranged to cover at least a portion of the second side;

a right front cover of stretchable fabric arranged to cover at least a portion of the fourth side;

a left front cover of stretchable fabric arranged to cover at least a portion of the sixth side;

at least one belt, arranged to encircle the body, sandwiched between at least a portion of the back cover and the back segment, sandwiched between at least a portion of the right front cover and the right front segment, and sandwiched between at least a portion of the left front cover and the left front segment, the at least one belt stitched at at least one location to the back cover, stitched at at least one location to the right front cover, and stitched at at least one location to the left front cover, wherein the belt passes through the back cover at at least two locations.

35. (Original): The system of Claim 34 wherein the belt is stitched to the back cover near the at least two locations where the belt passes through the back cover.

36. (Original): The system of Claim 29, wherein the belt is stitched to the right front cover at at least two locations.

37. (Original): The system of Claim 36, wherein the right front cover includes a first right edge, and a first left edge, and the belt is stitched to the cover near the first right edge and the first left edge.

38. (Previously Amended): A personal flotation device, the device comprising:

- a back segment of buoyant material, having a first side arranged to face towards a body of a user of the device, and a second side arranged to face away from the body, and having a first right lateral edge and a first left lateral edge,
- a right front segment of buoyant material, having a third side arranged to face towards a body of a user of the device, a fourth side arranged to face away from the body, a second right lateral edge and a second left lateral edge, the right front segment attached to the back segment near the first right lateral edge and the second right lateral edge;
- a left front segment of buoyant material, having a fifth side arranged to face towards a body of a user of the device, and a sixth side arranged to face away from the body, a third right lateral edge and third left lateral edge, the left front segment attached to the back segment near the first left lateral edge and the third left lateral edge, the left front segment arranged to be detachably linked to the right front segment near the second left lateral edge and the third right lateral edge;
- a back cover of stretchable fabric arranged to cover at least a portion of the second side;
- a right front cover of stretchable fabric arranged to cover at least a portion of the fourth side;
- a left front cover of stretchable fabric arranged to cover at least a portion of the sixth side;
- at least one belt, arranged to encircle the body, sandwiched between at least a portion of the back cover and the back segment, sandwiched between at least a portion of the right front cover and the right front segment, and sandwiched between at least a portion of the left front cover and the left front segment, the at least one belt stitched at at least one location to the back cover, stitched at at least one location to



the right front cover, and stitched at at least one location to the left front cover, wherein the belt passes through the right front cover at at least two locations.

39. (Original): The system of Claim 33 wherein the belt is stitched to the right front cover near the at least two locations where the belt passes through the right front cover.

40. (Original): The system of Claim 29, wherein the belt is stitched to the left front cover at at least two locations.

41. (Original): The system of Claim 36, wherein the left front cover includes a first right edge, and a first left edge, and the belt is stitched to the cover near the first right edge and the first left edge.

42. (Previously Amended): A personal flotation device, the device comprising:

a back segment of buoyant material, having a first side arranged to face towards a body of a user of the device, and a second side arranged to face away from the body, and having a first right lateral edge and a first left lateral edge,

a right front segment of buoyant material, having a third side arranged to face towards a body of a user of the device, a fourth side arranged to face away from the body, a second right lateral edge and a second left lateral edge, the right front segment attached to the back segment near the first right lateral edge and the second right lateral edge;

a left front segment of buoyant material, having a fifth side arranged to face towards a body of a user of the device, and a sixth side arranged to face away from the body, a third right lateral edge and third left lateral edge, the left front segment attached to the back segment near the first left lateral edge and the third left lateral edge, the left front segment arranged to be detachably linked to the right front segment near the second left lateral edge and the third right lateral edge;

a back cover of stretchable fabric arranged to cover at least a portion of the second side;  
a right front cover of stretchable fabric arranged to cover at least a portion of the fourth side;  
a left front cover of stretchable fabric arranged to cover at least a portion of the sixth side;  
at least one belt, arranged to encircle the body, sandwiched between at least a portion of the back cover and the back segment, sandwiched between at least a portion of the right front cover and the right front segment, and sandwiched between at least a portion of the left front cover and the left front segment, the at least one belt stitched at at least one location to the back cover, stitched at at least one location to the right front cover, and stitched at at least one location to the left front cover wherein the belt passes through the left front cover at at least two locations.

43. (Original): The system of Claim 42 wherein the belt is stitched to the left front cover near the at least two locations where the belt passes through the left front cover.

44. (Currently Amended): A method for covering a belt on a personal floatation device, comprising:

arranging a cover over a buoyant material

sandwiching at least a portion of a belt between a portion of the cover and the buoyant material;

passing the belt through the cover at at least one location; and

stitching the belt to the cover ~~near~~ adjacent the at least one location that it passes through the cover.

45. (Original): The method of Claim 44, wherein arranging the cover over the buoyant material includes stretching the cover over the buoyant material.

46. (Original): The method of Claim 44, further comprising passing the belt through the cover at at least one penetration.

47. (Currently Amended): A personal flotation device, the device comprising:  
a plurality of segments of buoyant material, each segment having a first side arranged to face towards a body of a user of the device, and a second side arranged to face away from the body, and each segment having a right lateral edge and a left lateral edge,  
a cover of stretchable fabric arranged to cover the first side of the plurality of segments of buoyant material; and  
at least one belt, arranged to encircle the body, and arranged to pass through the cover at a plurality of locations, the at least one belt being stitched to the cover ~~near~~ adjacent the locations that it passes through the cover.

48. (Original): The system of Claim 47, wherein the at least one belt is stitched to the cover near the plurality of locations where the at least one belt passes through the cover.

49. (Original): The system of Claim 48, wherein the at least one belt is stitched to the cover near the right lateral edge and the left lateral edge of at least one segment of buoyant material.

50. (Original): The system of Claim 47, wherein the at least one belt passes through the cover near the right lateral edge and the left lateral edge of at least one segment of buoyant material.